



University  
of Victoria

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2 Jan/03

Dear Jack,

I am going to tell my friend  
at the Nat. Library of Med., Donald Lindberg,  
to move over and to install you as Chief  
of the Reference Centre. I have never  
had so much good info. as you have taken  
the trouble to send, re Dr. Fred Griffith, the  
DNA pioneer, killed in the Nazi blitz on London.

His "removal" reminds me of my friend  
Dr. Kenneth Keele the cardiologist and  
Leonard scholar in London. He arrived  
by the Tube at his suburban village  
and on walking up the little hill felt  
disoriented - the houses were all  
gone - and his family with them, thanks  
to an air raid earlier in the day.

Back to "Fess" Avery. How did so  
many Canadians get mixed up with DNA?  
Avery, Dawson (he may have had  
myeloid leukaemia, as I recall) and either  
MacLeod or McCarty (from McGill). I tend,  
at age 89, to recall these things best!

I shall pick up The Lancet article you  
mention later today, at our Royal Jubilee  
Hospital - which was started by early  
British settlers. They have Lancet & British  
Med. Journal since volume 1! This  
hospital was built originally with  
90° turns in the corridors to prevent any  
movement of bacteria in the buildings!

We are about to have a branch  
of U.B.C.'s medical school here, and one

half-way to The Arctic, to double our  
output of M.D.'s by 2005. Hightime. We have  
robbed the 3rd world of so many of their  
physicians.

My final book, "The Endeavour" goes so  
slowly, as more & more people come up  
with more candidates. I may have to move  
the bar to age 70, up from age 65. You will  
be in it whatever the age cut-off. I have  
just been writing about Pertrude B. Eliot -  
what a textbook case of obstructionists an unmade  
and yet how she triumphed. Some of these  
remarkable women lived to be 100 or more.

Speaking of which, my friend Cecil Green  
of Texas Instruments etc. is now 102 yrs. old.  
I am to fly over the Pole to Oxford in July  
where my brother & I have invested in a very  
faded window in New College Chapel, 1369.  
I doubt if the window has been cleaned since,  
but now it has been sent up to York, to have  
7 centuries of mud etc. removed carefully.  
We both graduated the D.Phil. degree there  
in 1938 - in a small band of pilgrims!

Having lost 3 wives, I, naturally, had to  
consult "The Joy of Cooking" for the recipe of  
Hot Buttered Rum. On page 54 it explained  
that the Pilgrims brought the drink's recipe  
with them, and that the product was said to  
make a worried man see double and fall single.

I hope 2003 is good to you & yours

As ever

Bill